

THE
PETITION
OF THE
UNBORN BABES
TO THE
CENSORS
OF THE
Royal College of PHYSICIANS
OF
L O N D O N.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER in *Pater-noster-row* ; and sold by the
Booksellers of *London* and *Westminster*. 1751.

Price Three-pence.

THE
PREFACE
OF THE
UNBORN BABES



OF THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
OF
LONDON

THE SECOND EDITION

By J. H. B. ...
...
...



TO THE
C E N S O R S
OF THE
Royal College of P H Y S I C I A N S of *London*;
THE
Petition of the UNBORN BABES.

Humbly Sheweth,

TH A T, although your Petitioners are not his Majesty's natural-born Subjects, nevertheless, being resident within his Dominions, they are by the Laws and Constitutions of his Kingdoms intitled to Protection. (A)

But

(A) However evident this Proposition may seem, it has been said, that in a late Conversation among the Elects a very different Doctrine was espoused.

The

But so it is, that we your Petitioners have of late Years been grievously ill-treated by Dr. *Pocus*, Dr. *Maulus*, and other evil-minded Men their Followers and Confederates; who, not haveing the Fear of God before their Eyes, nor Abilities to get an honest Livelihood, have assumed the Character and Discourse of Old Women; and takeing advantage of the Fears and Ignorance

The Discourse, it is said, arose upon a Memorial lately presented to the Censors, requiring them, as a Court of Inquest constituted by Parliament, to enquire into the Deaths of six Children said to have died in the Delivery under the Hands of a Man-midwife. The Discourse was open'd by Dr. *Pocus* in a labour'd Harangue, by which he endeavour'd to prove, that unborn Children neither being Christians, nor having taken the Oaths, cou'd by no means be intitled to Protection either from the Church or the State. He endeavour'd likewise to shew, that a Child in the Womb might be consider'd as a Wart or a Wen; but at most it could only be look'd on as a Twig of a Tree, or a Leaf of a Plant, which might reasonably, and according to common Usage, be sacrificed to the Preservation or Convenience of its Parent. He enforced his Opinion by the Example of a Cow with Calf, in buying which the Butcher takes a Receipt only for a Cow, whereas, if the Calf were a distinct Creature, an Action wou'd still lie against him for the Calf. In like manner, he said, if a Thief is indicted for stealing a Mare, and is acquitted, if the Mare proves with Foal, the Thief might be again indicted for the Foal, which, according to his Law-readings he affirm'd, cannot be. Sir *William* seconded the Opinion of *Pocus*; but at the same time gave it another turn. He thought, that a Child in the Womb, in the full Signification of the Word, was properly an Abscess, being design'd *abcedere a matre*, to go from the Mother, and as such the Operator had a right to let it out (*according to the learned Daniel Turner*) in such manner, as he should judge best. The Chairman smiled his Approbation of this Conceit, and Sir *Edward*, who had sat musing upon a dirty Bargain of *Assiento Tobacco*, cry'd, *Aye, aye, why not?*

The Assembly were rising, when astonish'd at such wild Discourse the immortal HARVEY spoke from that Marble-Bust, which overlook'd them. He explain'd to them, *that Life and the Circulation were inseparable; that, as these*
Children

Ignorance of our Mothers, perswade them, that we your Petitioners are their avowed Enemies; and that our Appearance in the World will be to their utter Ruin and Destruction. By which wicked Persuasions our Mothers are led into a Confidence and Reliance on the Friendship and Assistance of these ignorant Men; and hire them at extravagant Rates to distress, bruise, kill, and

Children had their distinct Circulations and Motions, so it cou'd not be deny'd, that they were distinct Beings, that they had a Life of their own, and were equally intitled to Preservation with their Mothers. That their Lives were under the Protection of GOD and the LAWS; and that the MAN, who on any pretence took away the LIFE OF A CHILD, was guilty of Murder both in Law and Conscience. That, as to what had been foolishly suggested about the OATHS, he could only say, that, if duly tender, he believed, they wou'd not be found to refuse them. And as to their not being Christians, the Crime in taking away their Lives might be doubled on that Account; as they were not only robb'd of Life in this World, but, according to the Doctrine of many Christians, are prevented from attaining that eternal Felicity, to which they wou'd otherways soon have been intitled.

Surprized and confounded at a Discourse so strangely deliver'd, the Assembly stood amazed, and began to look with Contempt on Pocus and themselves; when Sir Edward starting up, cry'd: *Poh! poh! what Suff is all this about Circulations and Felicities! I know of no Circulation but Bank Circulation, nor any Felicity but in Gold: and don't believe they have any thing to do with either.* A Speech so well adapted to the Genius of the Assembly soon brought them back to their former Sentiments; when the immortal HARVEY spoke again, and said: *Ye are a Race of Men much degenerated from those, whom I once knew here, whom I loved and whom I honoured. Ye have neither the Learning, nor the Virtues, consistent with the Character which ye profess. Ye contemn KNOWLEDGE, and ye are despised by the PRINCES and the wise MEN of the LAND. Ye shall become Slaves to Apothecaries, they shall direct your doings, and ye shall be a Scoff at their Meetings. Ye shall be visited with Shame and Confusion, and this your Dwelling shall be be divided among the Scots.*

and destroy your Petitioners, contrary to the Peace and good Order of his Majesty's Government. (B)

And we your Petitioners particularly charge, that, if we cannot leave our Dwellings, and make our Appearance, so soon, as is expected, either from the Unwieldyness of our Gates, or by means of any other Obstacle requiring Time for its Removal, or if through Fear of the Cruelties commonly exercised by the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, your Petitioners are unwilling to leave their Habitations, the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, being present, charge your Petitioners with a Riot tending to the Murder of our Mothers; for which Crime we are forthwith drag'd out of our Habitations by Hooks, Pincers, and other bloody Instruments, whereby we are sometimes most miserably torn and bruised, and at other times our Heads are so squeezed, that we are ever after subject to Fits, and Convulsions, unless (as by God's Goodness it often happens) we die under the Operation. And in case of any the least Resistance, whether on our part, or from the Nature, and Situation,
of

(B) Of all the Practitioners, who exercise the different Branches of Physick, the Men-midwives alone (as such) give no Test of their Learning, Dexterity, or Integrity; and yet these Men are permitted on their single Opinions avowedly and professedly to kill our Children, to treat our Wives in such manner, as frequently ends in their Destruction, and to have such Intercourse with our Women, as easily shifts itself into Indecency, from Indecency into Obscenity, and from Obscenity into Debauchery.

of our Habitations, we are sentenced to Death as guilty of Rebellion, and in consequence of such Sentence we are sometimes beheaded, and at other times our Brains are torn out by Instruments wickedly contrived for that Purpose. Or if your Petitioners happen to put an Arm out of Doors, whether in our own Defence, or to feel our way, the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, immediately cut off such Arm as high, as they can reach ; by which means your Petitioners bleed to Death in great Misery and Torture.

And we your Petitioners likewise charge, that, if when drag'd out of our Habitations we are either already dead, and cannot, or so weak and terrified, that we dare not, cry for Mercy, we are then by the Directions of the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, shook and whip'd ; contrary to that Humanity, which is due to the Distress'd, or that Decency, which is due to the Deceased.

And your Petitioners farther charge, that such is the Ignorance and Infatuation of many Mothers, that they not only permit the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, to exercise their Cruelties as aforesaid on your Petitioners, but are perswaded likewise, that such their Cruelties towards us are the only means, by which they our said Mothers can be protected and preserved from our wicked and horrid Purposes ; so that the more Cruelties we suffer, the more our Mothers think themselves

themselves obliged for their Preservation ; and the more lavishly they reward, and glorify our Executioners.

And whereas the said *Pocus, Maulus*, and their Confederates, being really ignorant and unskill'd in the little Matters, they profess, often mistake in their wicked Designs against us, and bruise, tear, and wound our Mothers in such terrible manner, that they die of the Wounds and Bruises so received, your Petitioners charge, that such Bruises and Wounds are always wickedly, and unjustly, said to be made by your Petitioners ; who, under the heavy Accusation of having kill'd our Mothers, die unpity'd and unavenged. Whereas we your Petitioners deny, that we ever had any Intention to destroy, or that we of our own Motion ever do injure our said Mothers : but on the contrary we do aver, that such Bruises, Wounds, and Injuries, are wholly owing to the Ignorance, Impatience, and savage Disposition, of the said *Pocus, Maulus*, and their Confederates. And we your Petitioners are ready to prove such our Averment, as well by compareing the Bills of Mortality in former Times, wherein good Women only attended our Affairs, with those of later Years, in which these wicked Men have exercised their Barbarities ; as by the Printed Accounts of the *Hospital* for Lying-in Women in *Brownlow-Street* : By which Accounts it is admitted, that one in Fifteen of all the Children there born, are drag'd dead into the World ;
and

and it is reserved a Secret, how many more of the Fifteen die soon after of the Wounds and Bruises there received, as also how many of the Mothers remain alive, after passing through such Experiments, as are there try'd on miserable Mortals.

And your Petitioners farther charge, that the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, the better to warrant their wicked Doings, frequently assert, that your Petitioners were dead, before they came; and in order to support this their Assertion, they (by the Advice of Dr. *Barebone* heretofore Tutor to the said *Pocus*, and others) take an Opportunity to pinch our Navel-Strings; by which we are as expeditiously kill'd before Birth, as we could be by Drowning, or Suffocating, after it.

And we your Petitioners lastly charge, that the Nurses, who attend Labours, having generally no other View, but to make the most of their Calling; and finding that the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, taking no Part of the Gossips Gifts, the Midwife's Share is by that means divided between the Nurses, think it their Interest as well to conceal the aforesaid Cruelties practis'd upon us and our Mothers, as to endeavour by Lyes and false Representations to terrify our Mothers from the Use of Midwives, and to advance the Credit and Reputation of the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates. And with the same

View likewise they frequently entertain our Mothers with the most foolish Encomiums on the Comeliness of Dr. *Barebone's* Person, the polite and tender Behaviour of *Pocus*, or the delicate Wit and lively Imagination of *Maulus*, always concluding the Panegyrick with, *Oh the charming Man! it does one good to see him!* By which Behaviour of the Nurses our Mothers are so influenced, and filled with such high Ideas of the Abilities of these Men, that they believe all they say, and without Hesitation submit themselves and your Petitioners to be treated in such manner, as the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, in their great Ignorance and Cruelty, shall think proper.

Now We your Petitioners humbly pray, That in virtue of an Act of the 14th of *Henry* the Eighth, empowering and directing you to supervise, examine, and correct Abuses committed under the Name of *Phyick*, and of the SOLEMN OATH you have severally taken, to execute those Powers, you will take the Premises into Consideration: That you will make full Inquiry into the Murders, and other Cruelties, charged to be committed by the said *Pocus*, *Maulus*, and their Confederates, on your Petitioners and our Mothers: That you will not, through the Influence of Publick, or Private, Factions, or the

the Interest of Personal Connexions, screen Men, who wickedly build their Fortunes on the Ignorance and Fears of Women, to the Destruction of your Fellow Creatures: Who presumptuously pretend to amend the Dispositions of Providence: Who out - do the great Tempter of the first Woman; and, while they seduce our Mothers from their Obedience to God's Laws, carry his Vengeance in their Hands, and add Tortures and Death to those Sorrows, with which they were long since sentenced to bring forth their Children.

And your Petitioners, if they may live to speak, shall ever Pray.

F I N I S.

